

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking 05-311

To: Federal Communications Commission

I would like to submit these comments to the FCC's "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking" 05-311 on "video franchising".

Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) TV. PEG TV provides an important service of supporting local Atlanta individual views in the media. We already have enough large business views.

I support Public Access TV in Atlanta Georgia, I strongly urge the FCC to rule for the maintenance of local franchises. Telecommunications companies are accountable to the needs of consumers.

Without local franchises, local communities will be stripped of an adequate way to make sure companies charge reasonable rates, respond to customer complaints, or that they provide universal service.

We are experiencing way too many impediments to getting our individual views heard on local Cable TV.

The new Local Access Facility Rules appear to be designed to frustrate "Public Access" producers so that they quit using the facility. Just way too many, high benchmarks, that only Big Business can achieve.

Democracy works best when the widest range of ideas possible is made available to all people, regardless of their financial income, not just business people, and PEG TV plays an important role in doing this.

I used to work as staff member, a free lance contractor, in "Master Control" for Comcast. This is the CTV25 "Public Access" center in Dekalb county. We are very close to Atlanta Georgia.

I am currently still a producer of a Cable TV show called "Caught In Clapper". This show is about Independent Films and provides Filmmaker interviews. Also, I am a current member of ACM – "Alliance For Community Media", in Atlanta GA. ACM is a Video Community organization.

COMCAST new rules and policies are providing too many roadblocks, and hurdles for individual access. We seek to remove these unreasonable roadblocks.

Many of our Community TV "Public Access" producers, feel COMCAST is in violation of their contract. We believe this is part of a nationwide slow strangulation of individual access to Community TV.

I believe Comcast and Facility Managers trying to squeeze out "Public Access" producers, from Community TV, here in the Atlanta area.

Comcast is paying much more attention to their own business needs, instead of supporting and providing a facility for "Public Access" producers.

PEG TV is very important in providing a place where the public can be informed about local government affairs; and where individuals and community organizations can express their viewpoints and opinions.

My first time behind a commercial video news camera, was in 1973 at WAVE TV3 in Louisville KY. I have been producing "Public Access" programming since 1997. I am also a former Freelance contractor for Comcast August 2004-December 2005. "We need franchising rules that support Access TV"

Regards

John W. Gutmann

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Machine Press Video Productions - small business

ACM - Alliance for Community Media, Atlanta GA

"Caught In Clapper" Films and Filmmaker interviews

Atlanta Community TV, "Public Access" Producer

Retired after 33 years with AT&T Communications

Vietnam Era Veteran, US Navy 1968-1971, Retired